

The Lord Stanley of Alderley, F.S.A., exhibited an ancient ornament, apparently intended as a kind of necklace, formed of several pieces of jet or cannel coal, discovered near Holyhead Mountain, in Anglesea, in 1828. It is formed of several pieces, gradually narrowing towards the two extremities, attached together by means of numerous small holes drilled through the inner edges, and entirely through the breadth of some pieces. The portions of greatest width, towards the centre of the necklace, measure 2½ inches by about 5-8ths in breadth, and 2-5ths in thickness. A representation of a similar ornament, formed of amber, and found in a barrow at Kingston Deverill in Wiltshire, is given by Sir Richard Colt Hoare, *Ancient Wills*, vol. 1, pl. 3, p. 16. This necklace was accompanied by another, formed of oblong beads, of a form slightly tapering from the middle, and measuring in length from 1 in. to 1½ in.; also a small conical button, similar in form to some of those which are represented in the same work, vol. 1, pl. 12, p. 103; and a small triangular ornament, all formed of the same light and slightly inflammable substance, either coal or jet. Some portion of these necklaces appear to be deficient, and their entire length cannot be ascertained. They were deposited in a cavity of the rock, probably sepulchral, in which two urns were found, which, on exposure to the air, fell quickly to pieces.

Charles Roach Smith, Esq., F.S.A., exhibited a jug, communicated by Thomas Neale, Esq., being a specimen of Flemish ware, of a greyish-white colour, stamped with ornamental designs, and of elegant fashion. It was found at Buley Priory, Norfolk, and is now preserved in the Chelmsford and Essex Museum. Its date is of the close of the sixteenth century. A representation, drawn by John Adey Repton, Esq., F.S.A., accompanied this exhibition.

Mr. B. Herts, of Great Malborough-street, exhibited a series of ancient keys formed of bronze, some of which bear a remarkable resemblance to the ring-keys and patented inventions of modern times.

Albert Way, Esq., director, exhibited a variety of antiquities communicated by Mr. W. G. Rogers, of Great Newport-street, consisting of German carvings in oak, forming various groups illustrative of the "Via Crucis"; an Italian holy-water vessel of bronze; and a candlestick of copper, elaborately enriched with silver ornaments, described as having been brought from the Alhambra; and similar to one which was formerly at Strawberry Hill.

It was announced that Charles Frederick Barnwell, Esq., M.A.; Beriah Botfield, Esq., M.P.; Richard Lord Braybrooke, and the Rev. Samuel Roffey Maitland, M.A., had been appointed auditors of the accounts of the society for the year ending Dec. 31, 1843.

AGENTS 18.—W. R. Hamilton, Esq., V.P.

John Barrow, Esq., of the Admiralty, author of "Travels in Norway and Iceland," &c., was elected fellow.

Among the presents received was a copy of "Iconographie Chrétienne, Histoire de Dieu," by M. Didron, Paris, 1843, 4to. This work forms the commencement of an elaborate treatise illustrative of the symbolism of Christian art, and exhibits the varieties of distinctive conventional representation adopted by the artists of the middle ages in regard to each of the three persons of the Trinity. The volume is profusely illustrated with wood-cuts.

The Lord Stanley of Alderley, F.S.A., exhibited a British sepulchral urn, containing fragments of burned bones, found in digging for gravel, in the township of Over Alderley, Cheshire, near the Macclesfield-road, and adjacent to a supposed ancient line of communication. The form is remarkable, on account of the small perforated handles or ears, placed at intervals around the upper part, as if for suspension. Another urn, found near the same spot, is represented in "Ormerod's History of Cheshire."

Albert Way, Esq., director, exhibited various Roman remains communicated by the central committee of the British Archaeological Association. They were found on an elevated spot, about three miles south of Chesterford, and submitted for examination by Mr. Joseph Clarke, of Saffron Walden. They consist of patera and small vessels of red ware, some of which are plain, and others ornamented with foliage; with the potter's mark upon one of them, OF·VERI (*officiis*

Veri). Also a remarkable vessel of thin glass 4½ inches high, and 2½ inches wide, which holds about half a pint, and is embossed on its surface so as to resemble the cone of the fir; a glass lachrymatory; ornaments of bronze, fashioned as lions' faces, and apparently intended as the heads of nails; portions of various glass vessels, and of a very large amphora; with a coin of Trajan. Numerous fragments of pottery and glass were found in different parts of the hill.

Charles Roach Smith, Esq., F.S.A., exhibited a circular leaden fibula, purchased in London by Mr. B. Nightingale, and resembling at first sight the Roman medallions which occasionally are found mounted in gold borders. It measures in diameter two inches; a bust, with a rudely shaped and crested helmet appears on the obverse, and the remains of fastenings on the inner side show that it was destined to be used as a brooch. Adjoining the bust are seen certain letters, explained by Mr. Smith as indicating the name of Vitalianus, the Gothic chieftain, who, at the head of 60,000 barbarians, waged war during six years with Anastasius.

Sir Gore Ouseley, Bart., F.S.A., communicated in a letter to the president, observations on the identity of the Fitz-Robert, one of the barons who compelled King John to sign Magna Charta, suggesting that, according to the practice of adopting a surname formed by prefixing Fitz to the Christian name of the father, he was probably the John Fitz-Robert, son of Robert Fitz-Roger, whose chief seat was at Clavering, in Essex. A pedigree was annexed shewing the descent, drawn from the Close Rolls, and Baker's History of Northamptonshire, parish of Aynhoe.

Evelyn Philip Shirley, Esq., M.P., communicated, by the hands of Sir Frederic Madden, F.S.A., a charter of the thirteenth century, preserved amongst the muniments of the Lechmere family, being a confirmation from Ralph de Mortuo Mari of a grant of land in Wribbenhall, co. Worcester. The peculiarities consist in its being signed with a cross by each of the persons who make and confirm the grant, a practice of rare occurrence; and in the mode of appending the seal, by a thin label, not from the foot, as usual, but from the middle of it. No similar instance of this mode of attaching the seal has hitherto been noticed in England; an instance in some degree similar occurs in the collection of charters at the Hotel de Soubise, Paris.

John Bidwell, Esq., F.S.A., exhibited a curious signet ring of fine gold, found at Thetford, in Suffolk, in 1823, accompanied by some observations in a letter from Albert Way, Esq., director. The ring bears, as the chief device, an eagle displayed; on the inner side is engraved a bird, with the wings closed, and intended, as Mr. Hudson Gurney supposed, to represent a raven; a conjecture which, with various other considerations, led him to appropriate the ring to Sir Rhyas ap Thomas, the adherent of Henry VII. This device may, however, represent a falcon. A ducal crown is placed over the head of the bird, and, from the design of this ornament, and general fashion of the ring, Mr. Way is disposed to consider it a relic of the earlier part of the fourteenth century. It is very similar to inscribed signet rings discovered on the field of Cressy. No satisfactory appropriation of these devices, which appear to be heraldic, has been hitherto proposed. The ring was evidently a love-token, as appears by the legend inscribed both externally and on the inner side, *NEUS ME OUVROY DE VOUS SEUIR A ORE—COM MOUN COEVEZ NEIRA, God work for me to make my suit welcome to you, as my heart desires. Ouyroy is the optative either of oyer, corrupted from operari, or ouvrir, aperire; the word occurs often in either sense to early tales of romance. The verb seoir, written by Joinville *siere*, signifies to follow, as in Anglo-Norman *seoir or segyr, to sue*; but it may also imply to render service. This interesting ring weighs 5 dwts. 10 grs., and appears to have been partially enamelled.*

Albert Way, Esq., director, communicated a letter from Charles Tucker, Esq., of Harpford, Devon, descriptive of the curious cathedral of Albi, department of Tarn, in the south of France, according to observations made during a recent journey. This noble structure is little known, it lies remote from any great

route, about nine miles north of Toulouse. It is constructed with brick; the first stone was laid by Bp. Bernard, August 15, 1282, and the church was consecrated in 1480. The tower at the west end was elevated by Louis d'Amboise, in 1475, to the height of 280 feet, and its construction is remarkable. In the interior of the church the elaborate screen and enclosure of the choir are richly sculptured; but the most striking feature of interest consists in the profusion of paintings in fresco, which decorate the walls of the cathedral, and, by their freshness of colouring, afford a striking proof of the durability of that kind of decoration. The earliest are of the fourteenth century. The stone-work of the choir, constructed under Cardinal Louis d'Amboise, by a company of itinerant masons from Strasburg, is most elaborate, and enriched with a profusion of statues and delicate tabernacle-work. This cathedral was condemned by the Directory, and preserved by stratagem, being one of the few existing monuments of architecture which escaped with comparatively little injury, although the painted glass, the numerous and splendid sepulchral brasses, the rich screens of iron-work, and other decorations, were destroyed.

Edward Blore, Esq., F.S.A., exhibited two sketches representing the ancient Refectory (as supposed) of Great Malvern Priory, now wholly demolished. These sketches were made in 1837. The exterior had been much disguised by recent repairs, and the building, on account of its unattractive external aspect, had been little noticed; it had the ordinary appearance of a barn, and was usually filled with the produce of the farm to which it was attached. The chief feature of interest was the beautiful roof, as shewn in the interior view, which formed a very interesting illustration of the domestic architecture of the fourteenth century. Two years subsequently the whole building was wantonly destroyed, merely to make way for a poultry-yard and some out-buildings. It consisted of a hall, with the usual partition, and two doors at one extremity, adjoining the butteries; the general character of the construction and ornaments shewed that it was built in the early part of the reign of Edward III. It was constructed entirely of timber, which appeared in very sound state; the hall was divided into four bays, by three principals, with intermediate subordinate principals to give support to the purlins. In each bay, except in that which contained a plain door of entrance, were two tiers of square-headed traceried windows, the pattern of the tracery being varied, as usual in works of that period.

OXFORD ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY.

THE meetings of the society during the present term, held at the Society's Room, near Lincoln College, are Wednesday, May 1, Wednesday, May 15, and Wednesday, May 29, at eight o'clock in the evening.

The more active assistance of the members of the society is earnestly requested in preparing the third part of the Guide to the Architects! Antiquities in the Neighbourhood of Oxford.

Any notes, ground plans, or measurements; drawings or sketches, either of whole buildings, of parts, or details; or historical notices, either from books or from MSS., with accurate references to the authorities, will be thankfully received by the Secretaries.

The third part will comprise the Deanery of Cuddesden, which contains the following parishes, here arranged for convenience in ridges:—

RIDGE 1.—Marston, Elsfield, Woodston, Nuke, Beckley, Stanton St. John's, Holton, Waterperry, Waterstock, Albury, Rycote, Forest Hill, Haddington.

RIDGE 2.—Wheatley, Cuddesden, Milton, Haseley, Newington, Drayton, Stadhampton, Chislehampton, Garsington, Horpeham.

RIDGE 3.—Iffley, Sandford, Nuceham, Culham, Clifton Hampden, Dorchester, Warborough, Benson, Marsh Baldon, Toot Baldon, Cowley, St. Bartholomew's.

INDIA-RUBBER MATTING FOR CHURCHES.

—The government have ordered the new Garrison Church at Portsmouth to be covered with this extraordinary manufacture to prevent the soldiers suffering from rheumatism, &c., brought on by sitting with their feet on the cold stones.